



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

May 24, 2022

Evan Sweet
Director of Neighborhood Planning & Operations
Meatpacking District Management Association

Re: Update on Western Gateway

Dear Mr. Sweet,

Thank you for presenting your initiative to improve the pedestrian experience in the Meatpacking District, and for taking the community's suggestions into account towards this shared goal. As made clear in the presentation, new and recent developments along the Hudson River—Little Island, improvements such as the rooftop park and food court at Pier 57, in anticipation of the arrival of 3,500 Google employees—have increased pedestrian and cyclist volumes, in particular at the West Street crossings. We applaud this much-needed initiative to connect the waterfront to the pedestrian fabric of the Meatpacking District.

We itemized the following suggestions from the committee, which were voted on during MCB4's May 4th Full Board meeting, with 37 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 1 present-not-eligible¹:

West Street

- Study the creation of an additional crosswalk on the north side of West 14th Street and West Street. As a rule, there should be a pedestrian crossing anytime there is a traffic light.
- Provide more time for pedestrians to cross West Street at all crossings.
- Provide sufficient sidewalk width or shared streets² on the streets connecting to the pedestrian crossings. (Horatio Street, West 15th Street)

¹ Manhattan Community Board 4 Chair Jeffrey LeFrancois is the Executive Director of the Meatpacking District Management Association and was present but not eligible to vote during MCB4's May 4th Full Board meeting.

² A shared street is a street where the formal distinctions between spaces dedicated to pedestrians, cyclists, and motorized vehicles are removed, the street is shared by everyone, with each user becoming increasingly aware and respectful of the others. Shared streets provide pedestrians the right-of-way: curbs are removed, and the materials and space allocation indicate that vehicles are guests.

- Restore the intersection of West 14th Street and West Street to a “city street” design instead of a highway design.

Tenth Avenue

- Rationalize and simplify the Truck Route Connections from West Street to West 14th Street. Remove the triangle on Tenth Avenue and create a direct connection with West Street which will minimize turning conflicts with pedestrians.
- Relocate the Tenth Avenue entrance intersection with West Street further south at Horatio Street.
- Request a red arrow split-phase signal for the traffic lights at West 15th Street/Tenth Avenue to protect pedestrians from west turning northbound traffic.
- Account for the eventual installation of both a protected Bike Lane and a designated Bus Lane along Tenth Avenue.

Ninth Avenue

- Request a Commercial Loading Zone on the East Side of Ninth Avenue between 14th and 15th Streets (in front of 56-66 Ninth Avenue) to reduce traffic obstructions.
- Add a protected bike lane connection from West 16th Street to the south side of West 14th Street.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide guidance on this effort from the outset and look forward to working together to implement improvements.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee